DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 263 061 SP 026 665

AUTHOR McEwin, C. Kenneth; Allen, Michael G.
TITLE Middle Level Teacher Certification--A National Assessment.
PUB DATE [85]
NOTE 9p.
PUB TYPE Information Analyses (070)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Intermediate Grades; *Middle Schools; Secondary Education; *State Standards; *Teacher Certification; *Teacher Qualifications

ABSTRACT

A study sought to identify current practices and trends in middle level certification of teachers and other selected middle level personnel. Certification officers in all 50 state departments of education were surveyed to secure current certification regulations and related information during the 1984-85 academic year. It was found that 26 states now have some form of middle level teacher certification, and several states not having this certification were seriously considering implementing it. The most popular middle level certification patterns were grades 4 through 8, grades 5 through 9, and grades 5 through 8, accounting for 73 percent of all the patterns followed. Four states have special middle level certification requirements for middle level principals, while three states have certification requirements for middle level counselors and three states have such requirements for specialist teachers. It is concluded that the movement toward special middle level certification is an established trend with a widening base of support. (CB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

SP

ED263061

MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHER CERTIFICATION: A NATIONAL ASSESSMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

✓ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

K. McEwin

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

C. Kenneth McEwin

Chairperson/Professor

Michael G. Allen

Professor

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

College of Education

Appalachian State University

Boone, North Carolina 28608

SP 026665

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHER CERTIFICATION: A NATIONAL ASSESSMENT

by C. Kenneth McEwin and Michael G. Allen

This study sought to identify current practices and trends in middle level certification of teachers (middle/junior high school) and other selected middle level personnel. Until recently few states had special, separate certification programs for middle level teachers, principals, or counselors, e.g., only two states in 1968 and 15 states in 1978 had such certification (Pumerantz, 1969; George, McMillan, Malinka, & Pumerantz). However, a 1982-83 survey revealed that 25 states had adopted some form of middle level teacher certification plan.[1]

Because of wide interest in the results of the 1982 study and continuing requests for additional information on the topic, the authors conducted a follow-up survey during the 1984-85 academic year to determine if any significant changes had occurred since the 1982-83 study. Further, the study was conducted to determine if the trend in a few states to make certification standards more general, or even not requiring initial certification, had become widespread, effectively reversing the trend toward adopting special certification for middle level educators.

Methodology

Certification officers in all 50 state departments of education were surveyed to secure current certification regulations and related information. The survey was conducted during the 1984-85 academic year with the data being analyzed in March, 1985. Certification officers from all 50 states furnished

the requested information. Telephone calls were utilized to obtain additional information or clarification.

Findings

Presently, twenty-six states now have some form of middle level teacher certification (see Table 1). This represents a significant increase over past years, and an increase of one additional state since the 1982-83 study (see Table 2). Several certification officers from states without such certification stated that middle level certification is receiving serious consideration, e. g., Michigan, Montana, Ohio. Special middle level teacher certification is mandatory in 11 states, as compared to 10 in the 1982-83 study. The remaining states offer some kind of overlapping certification plan, e.g., K-8, 7-12 (see Table 3).

Middle Level Certification Patterns

The most popular middle level certification patterns are 4-8, 5-9, and 5-8 which account for 73 percent of the total patterns utilized (see Table 4). Three states have two concurrent middle level certifications which include 7-9 and 5-8 or 5-9 plans. The 1982-83 survey also found the 4-8, 5-9, and 5-8 patterns to be the most popular with those combinations then reflecting 68 percent of the total middle level certification patterns reported.

Middle Level Certification: Other Personnel

Four states report having special middle level certification requirements for middle level principals as compared to three in the 1982-83 study. Three states now have such certification requirements for middle level counselors and three for specialists teachers (see Table 5).

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 1

States With Special Middle Level Teacher Certification

States	Certification Patterns
Alabama	4 - 8
Arizona	5 - 9
Arkansas	5 - 8
Colorado	5 - 9/7 - 9
Connecticut	4 - 8
Florida	5 - 8/7 - 9
Georgia	4 - 8
Indiana	5 - 9
Iowa	4 - 9
Kansas	5 - 9/7 - 9
Kentucky	5 - 9
Massachusetts	5 - 9
Minnesota	5 - 9
Mississippi	4 - 8
Missouri	4 - 8
Nebraska	4 - 9
New York	7 - 9
North Carolina	6 - 9
North Dakota	5 - 8
Rhode Island	5 - 8
South Carolina	7 - 8
Utah	5 - 9
Virginia	4 - 8
West Virginia	4 - 8
Wisconsin	5 - 8
Wyoming	5 - 8
*Total	26

* New Hampshire has adopted specific program standards for middle level teachers. However, it is not reflected in this total since certification levels vary from district to district.

Table 2

Trends In Middle Level Teacher Certification

Year of Study	Number With Certification
1968 (Pumerantz)	2
1975 (George & Others)	8
1978 (Gillan)	15
1982 (McEwin & Allen)	25
1984 (McEwin & Allen)	26

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 3

States With Mandatory Middle Level Teacher Certification

States	Certification Pattern
* Florida	5 - 8/7 - 9
Georgia	4 - 8
Indiana	5 - 9
Massachusetts	5 - 9
Minnesota	5 - 9
Mississippi	4 - 8
Missouri	4 - 8
North Carolina	6 - 9
** Virginia	4 - 8
West Virginia	4 - 8
Wyoming	5 - 8
Total	11

* If teaching in a middle or junior high school.
** Departmentalized classes in grades six and seven may be taught by teachers with subject matter endorsements.

Table 4

Patterns of Middle Level Teacher Certification

Patterns	Frequency of Use	Percent
4 - 8	8	28
5 - 9	7	24
5 - 8	6	21
7 - 9	4	14
4 - 9	2	7
6 - 9	1	3
7 - 8	1	3
* Total	29	100

* Discrepancy between total in frequency of use column and total number of states with middle level teacher certification results from three states (Colorado, Florida, and Kansas) having two concurrent middle level certifications.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 5

States With Middle Level Certification of Principals, Counselors, and Specialist Teachers

State	Principal	Counselor	Specialist
Colorado			* X
Florida			*
Massachusetts	* X		
Michigan	X	X	X
Minnesota		* X	
Rhode Island	* X		
Virginia	*	*	
West Virginia	*	*	*

* 1984-85
X 1982-83

Summary and Conclusions

The dramatic increase in the number of middle level schools in this country has not been paralleled by corresponding growth in specialized middle level preparation programs or specialized certification requirements for middle level teachers, principals, or specialist teachers. Traditionally, middle level classrooms have been, and continue to be, staffed by persons whose training, expertise, and interest lie at other levels.

Results of this and other studies indicate a substantial movement toward requirement of both middle level preparation and separate, middle level teacher certification. Survey results indicate that a limited, but growing, number of states have initiated special middle level certification for middle level educators.

The overall increase in middle level teacher certification is substantial when compared to past years (see Table 2). The

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

present study did not reveal any decrease in the total number of states with special middle level certification when compared to the 1982-83 study. In fact, five additional states indicated studies are in progress to determine if middle level certification plans will be adopted.

It remains to be seen whether the move to initate middle level certification plans will continue as it has since 1968. Widely predicted teacher shortages will certainly affect this trend. Efforts to open the profession to those not certified poses an additional threat to traditional certification practices, e.g., Texas, New Jersey. The Texas respondent, for example, reported that beginning with the 1985-86 school year, an alternative certification plan will allow those holding a BA or BS degree to receive a probationary certificate and simply "declare their level." Such persons, if they receive satisfactory ratings over a specified period, may then proceed up the career ladder.

No respondents reported that their state was considering eliminating existing middle level certification. It is clear that the movement toward special middle level certification is an established trend with a widening base of support.

Reference Notes

1. McEwin, C. K & Allen, M. G. (1983). Middle level teacher certification: A national study. Boone, North Carolina: Appalachian State University. Hereafter, this study is referred to as "the 1982-83 study."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

References

George, P. S., McMillan, M., Malinka, R., & Pumerantz, P. (1975). Middle school teacher certification: A national survey. Educational Leadership, 33(3), 213-216.

Gillan, R. E. (1978). A national assessment of the effects of middle school teacher certification. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Northwestern State University.

McEwin, C. K., & Allen, M. G. (1983). Middle level teacher certification: A national study. Boone, North Carolina: Appalachian State University.

Pumerantz, P. (1969). Few states certify teachers for growing middle schools. Phi Delta Kappan, 51, 102.